



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

ISSN 1522-0567

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 21, 2004
VOL. 51 NO. 48

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Poultry Programs

Market News Branch

NATIONAL BROILER MARKET-AT-A-GLANCE



Trade sentiment was steady. Retail demand was mostly light, and food service covered the full range. Supplies of heavier weights were at least adequate, but smaller sizes were adequate to closer balanced. In the parts structure, trading was no better than moderate with availability of all items irregular, but overall obtainable if needed. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at weights in a full range.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading advanced .25 cents to 75.00 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 63.50 cents last year on April 23, 2003.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

ITEM	DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)
LINE RUN TENDERS	259.50
BREASTS - B/S	228.50
BREASTS - WHOLE	124.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	112.50
LEG QUARTERS	35.00
WINGS	132.00

This information is supplied by the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Poultry Market News Service.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was light to fair, best for fast food specials and where limited retail ads were active. Supplies were usually sufficient to satisfy trade needs. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair. Breast items were adequate to at times closer balanced, dark meat was available with drums moving best, and wings were sufficient. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying interest on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair at best during midweek trading. Offerings were mixed; the 2.5 pound birds were adequate to available, the 3 pound sizes were balanced, and the heavier weights were at least sufficient. Retail and distributive draw was limited. The market tone was mostly steady. In the parts complex, boneless-skinless breasts were sufficient with spot discounting occasionally noted. Bone-in breasts were adequate to balanced. Dark meat items were clearing well. Wings were sufficient.

MIDWEST The whole broiler/fryer market tone was steady. Offerings were available with small birds in tightest position. Fill in trade on 3 up wogs noted into the Chicago area at 76 cents. Trade interest was light to moderate with increased resistance to higher asking prices. Retail demand was mostly light while food service movement continued irregular. Best trade activity noted into fast food. Floor stocks were adequate to ample. Weights desirable to heavy. Parts trade was selective and limited. Offerings on all items were available; best call noted on breast trim and tenders. The market tone was mostly steady, although dark cuts and wings trade sentiment was mixed.

WESTERN The market tone was steady overall. Offerings were in fairly good balance on lighter weight product and mainly adequate on heavier weights. Retailer demand was moderate to good best to cover feature activities. Floor stocks adequate for current needs. Trade sentiment was overall steady on parts.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

19 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE	
WEEK ENDING 04/17/04	2004	2003
EGGS SET	213,662	208,865
CHICKS PLACED	171,422	168,183

PREVIOUS YEAR

+02

+02

BROILER EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-State weekly program set 214 million eggs in incubators during the week ending April 17, 2004. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

CHICKS PLACED UP 2 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-State weekly program placed 171 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 17, 2004. Placements were up 2 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through April 17, 2004 were 2.71 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

WEEKLY FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING Based on the preliminary chick placements, the number of fryers available for the marketing during the week ending 29-May-04 is estimated at 157.9 million head. This compares to 158.7 million head the previous week and to 158.0 million head the same week a year ago, when the slaughter was 143.4 million head and the composite weighted average price was 61.33 cents per pound.

APRIL 20, 2004

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

APRIL 21, 2004

F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	887	205.00-296.00	207-210	210.22
TENDERLOINS	228	230.00-278.00	230-237	238.49
BREAST - LINE RUN	113	114.00-127.00	114-118	117.56
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	73	36.00-56.00	38-40	40.38
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	595	30.00-33.00	30-31	30.71
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	980	32.00-38.00	33-35	34.24
WINGS (WHOLE)	307	121.00-134.00	124-126	124.39
WINGS (CUT)	458	137.00-142.00	137-139	138.66
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	885	205.00-296.00	208-215	212.24
TENDERLOINS	233	230.00-278.00	230-237	238.41
BREAST - LINE RUN	103	114.00-127.00	114-118	117.90
FRONT HALVES	85	106.50-115.00	107-109	109.35
LEGS	73	38.00-56.00	38-40	41.07
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	635	30.00-33.00	30-31	30.67
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	900	33.00-38.00	33-35	33.69
WINGS (WHOLE)	280	121.00-134.00	121-124	123.61
WINGS (CUT)	894	137.00-141.00	137-140	138.69
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

 WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR — F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
69.50 - 74.50	71.71	68.25 - 74.00	70.01	71.29

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS

Trucklot buying activity was noted as fair to no better than moderate. Offerings of boneless-skinless breasts were at least adequate with spot discounting noted where product was available. Bone-in breasts were sufficient. Dark meat items were clearing satisfactorily. Wings were sufficient and tenderloins were well cleared. Retail movement was about fair to moderate, best for scattered features. Distributive draw was fair at best. The market tone was mostly steady.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES. APRIL 20 2004

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	220	218.61	539,746
TENDERLOINS	235	215.00	108,665
BREAST - WITH RIBS	114-115	120.00	154,560
BREAST - LINE RUN	114	116.61	113,920
LEGS	43-44	40.45	333,859
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	32.85	505,241
DRUMSTICKS	31-32	39.47	119,530
THIGHS	42-43	47.02	87,660
B/S THIGHS	110-111	107.35	73,650
WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	126.13	76,440
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.04	34,160
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	27.95	27,720
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.08	25,380

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	220	217.05	563,275
TENDERLOINS	235	230.21	69,480
BREAST - WITH RIBS	114-115	121.60	119,440
BREAST - LINE RUN	114	116.35	132,960
LEGS	44-45	43.21	279,596
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	33-34	32.99	240,448
DRUMSTICKS	32-33	42.68	83,400
THIGHS	42-43	49.12	41,760
B/S THIGHS	110-111	111.40	45,780
WINGS (WHOLE)	116-117	125.86	112,000
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	11.92	30,640
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	33.33	10,400
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.52	22,680

 INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED (1,000)	ACTUAL (1,000)	AVG WTS	ACTUAL WTS	AVG WTS
ALA	3,964	4,049	3,784	4,130	5.33
ARK	5,328	5,325	5,217	4,736	5.06
DELMARVA	2,243	2,230	2,200	2,084	5.46
KY-LA-TN	2,005	2,053	2,041	2,513	5.10
MISS	2,921	2,731	2,686	2,661	5.50
NC	2,454	2,427	2,344	2,883	6.50
TEXAS	2,382	2,114	2,402	2,099	5.17
TOTAL	21,297	20,929	20,674	21,106	5.39
MON-FRI	63,174 (A)				61,379(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 21-Apr 04 and 22-Apr-04 is estimated to be 31,863,000 up 1.61 percent from a week ago and up 5.5 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 31,358,000; last year 30,205,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RETAILERS	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	95-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	95-105
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	71-81
DUCKS	-
RABBITS-WHOLE	-
RABBITS-CUT UP	-

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY

DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	ICE PACK	105
	DRY PACK	105-114
ROASTERS 4# & UP	ICE PACK	105-107
	DRY PACK	107-109
HENS OVER 5#	ICE PACK	88-93
	DRY PACK	93-95
DUCKS		162-185

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING 24-APR-04

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	04/24/04 (1)	04/17/04
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	158,623 (2)	158,112
LT HENS	1,505	1,494
HVY HENS	1,327	1,366
CHECK TOTAL	161,455	160,972

(1)ESTIMATED

(2)The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 24-Apr-04 is 159.9 million head compared to 155.2 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 158.9 million head or 1.0 million less than estimated available. For week of 01-May-04 the estimated available is 161.1 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS-SELECTED STGE CENTERS

(INCL GOVT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 04/19/04	180,837	44,278
AM 04/01/04	183,458	41,759
CHG	2,621	2,519
PCT CHG	-1	6

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	04/19/04	04/12/04	04/21/03	04/19/04	04/12/04	04/21/03
PACIFIC						
COAST	7,090	6,977	9,781	3,307	3,456	8,712
LOS						
ANGELES	374	421	114	1,874	1,957	3,527

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2004

	RANGE	
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	65-71
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	68-76

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 04/20/04

AI PAPERS REQUIRED TO SELL ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY

	LOW	HIGH	AVG		LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	-	-	-	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-	-	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-	-	-	LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-	-	MIXED FOWL ea.	-	-	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-	-	BANTAMS ea.	-	-	-
BROILERS lb.	-	-	-	BROILERS ea.	-	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROASTERS ea.	-	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-	-	FRYERS ea.	-	-	-
CHICKS lb.	-	-	-	CHICKS ea.	-	.60	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-	-	PULLETS ea.	-	-	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-	-	BUNNIES ea.	.80	3.00	-
ROOSTERS lb.	-	-	-	ROOSTERS ea.	-	-	-
GEESE lb.	-	-	-	GEESE ea.	-	-	-
TURKEYS lb.	-	-	-	TURKEYS ea.	-	-	-
DUCKS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.40	1.30	1.06	RABBITS ea.	-	-	-
PIGEONS lb.	-	-	-	PIGEONS ea.	4.00	10.25	-
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-	-	GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-	-	DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-	-	CALL DUCKS ea.	-	-	-
SILKIES ea.	-	-	-	GOSLINGS ea.	-	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-	-	TURKEY POULTS ea.	-	-	-
CHUKARS ea.	-	-	-				
TOTAL COOPS	24						

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS - Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending April 16, 2004

	Whole Chickens	Breasts	Legs w/ Thighs	Necks, Back & Wings	Livers/ Gizzards	Hens
RAYON						
Low	57.37	121.20	72.72	12.12	12.12	48.48
High	59.79	129.28	80.80	16.16	16.16	48.48
Mostly	58.58	121.20	72.72	12.12	16.16	48.48

SAN JUAN

Low	56.56	121.20	72.72	12.12	12.12	48.48
High	59.39	129.28	80.80	16.16	16.16	48.48
Mostly	58.98	121.20	72.72	12.12	12.12	48.48

NEW SAN JUAN

Low	56.56	121.20	72.72	12.12	12.12	50.50
High	59.39	129.28	80.80	16.16	16.16	50.50
Mostly	58.98	121.20	72.72	12.12	12.12	50.50

BECERRA

Low	57.37	121.20	72.72	12.12	12.12	48.48
High	59.79	129.28	80.80	16.16	16.16	48.48
Mostly	58.58	121.20	72.72	12.12	12.12	48.48

DELMARVA Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was seasonally fair to moderate and about as expected for mid-week trading. Offerings were about adequate on 3 pound sizes; 3.5 pound and heavier sizes were more than sufficient. Live supplies were moderate; weights were in a full range, mostly desirable. Processor schedules were moderate. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 76 to 87 cents. Trade sentiment was generally steady. In the parts complex, boneless skinless breasts were available; bone-in breasts were generally adequate. Dark meat items were clearing. Wings were sufficient.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	70-91
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	78.92
NO. OF BOXES	6,272

*7 of 7 plants reporting.

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